

What is STEMPaths?

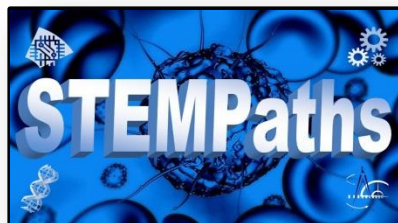
The second annual STEMPaths Orientation, held on Sept. 23, 2014 at Miami High School and High Desert Middle School, gave more than 1,000 students from Globe, Miami, and San Carlos insightful answers to a student's universal question of *why do I need to learn this stuff*.

The nine-person panel of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) professionals not only spoke to students about the knowledge and skills necessary for today's job market, but shared personal stories of how their paths led to the jobs they now hold.

This year, students also heard from motivational speaker retired USMC Capt. James Lopez. Lopez is a Globe High School graduate who served in the US Marine Corps. During his service, he was among the 55 hostages held for 444 days during the Iranian Hostage Crisis. In addition to his service, Lopez continued his education, earning degrees in mathematics and computer science. He currently works as a computer programmer and software analyst. His inspiring words and no-nonsense demeanor challenged students to look at the world around them and recognize that without a sound education, options are very limited.

Thank you to our 2014 STEMPaths Orientation Panelists!

- ✚ **Lisa Diosdado**, *Director of Radiology at Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center*
- ✚ **Sgt. Gabe Valenzuela**, *Gila County Sheriff's Office*
- ✚ **Deputy Jason Fajardo**, *Gila County Sheriff's Office*
- ✚ **Linda Gross**, *Publisher of the Globe-Miami Times*
- ✚ **David Moss**, *CTO of People Power*
- ✚ **Richard Reitz**, *Globe District Ranger- US Forest Service*
- ✚ **Roger Laija**, *Plant Manager at Freeport-McMoRan*
- ✚ **SSgt. Mitchell Thewes**, *US Army*
- ✚ **Capt. James Lopez**, *(ret.) US Marine Corps*
- ✚ **Lt. Christine Duarte, Sgt. Hom, Detention Officer Davies, Detention Officer Yerkovich and Detention Officer Osborne**, *Gila County Sheriff's Office*



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Sponsored by Gila County School Superintendent Linda O'Dell and Freeport-McMoRan, STEMPaths is a collaborative project that aims at bringing students in grades 7-12 face-to-face with professionals working in STEM-related fields. An inaugural STEMPaths Orientation event was held Dec. 12, 2013 at Miami High School, Globe High School, and High Desert Middle School. More than 1,000 students attended the event at the three sites.

The conference portion of STEMPaths will be held in February, 2015. Using a conference-format, students will have the opportunity to participate in discussions and ask questions. Students will also hear from a keynote speaker and will receive a certificate of completion for their participation. Students will have the opportunity to select three sessions – from a total of 10 – to attend. Each session will be 60 minutes long and will once again put students face-to-face with professionals representing a variety of STEM-related fields.

The overall goal of STEMPaths is to excite students about STEM-related careers and to encourage them to not shy away from STEM courses in school.